138. Needs of the cardamom ryots.

MR. C. A. ABDUR RAHIM (*Peermade taluk*) first urged the necessity for giving representation to the Travancore Cardamom Planters' Association in the Legislative Council. Since special representation in the Council had been given to the European Planters' Associations and the mercantile community, the Cardamom Planters' Association could also claim for a seat in the Council. The Association was a big organisation with a capital of Rs. 20 lakhs and was controlling all cardamom cultivation in the High Ranges. A member should either be nominated by the Government to represent the Association or it should be allowed to return a member by election.

The member next said that the grouping of Minachil with Devicolam and Changanachery with Peermade for purposes of election to the Legislative Council caused much inconvenience to the voters of Peermade and Devicolam. Most of the voters in the latter two taluks were chiefly residing in British India and were not in a position to know anything about the candidates standing for election from the other taluks. The Peermade and Devicolam taluks should therefore be amalgamated into one constituency for purposes of election to the Council.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Abdur Rahim, your first point about representation of the Cardamom Planters' Association in the Legislative Council will be considered and your second point *viz.*, the grouping of the Devicolam and Peermade taluks as one constituency, which has already been raised by another member, will be considered when the question of re-grouping the constituencies is taken up for consideration.

139. Rights of women.

MRS. WALSALAM ROSE (*Nominated*) first represented about the necessity for amending the law of inheritance among Christians as regards the shares of daughters and wives. Sections 16, 17, 18 and 24 of the Christian Succession Regulation governed the rights of the Christian widow. Under the Regulation, when the widow took the whole of her husband's estate, she took it absolutely, but when she got only a share of the estate, she took only a limited interest in such share. This restriction on the widow's right was an anomaly and the Regulation should be so amended as to give the widow an absolute right over immovable properties, even in cases where she inherited only a portion. Under the Indian Succession Act in British India, the widow took an absolute estate in one-third of her husband's estate, when he left lineal descendants and half of it when he left surviving none of his father's kindred. The Nayar Regulation placed no restriction on the shares inherited by Nayar widows from their husbands. Under the Mahomedan Law also there were no such restrictions. The law on the subject should therefore be suitably amended.

Again, under Section 18 of the Christian Succession Regulation, the sons were entitled to have the whole of the intestate's property divided equally among themselves, subject to the claims of the

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